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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/12/2011
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [PTER](#) [LE](#) [LG](#)
SUBJECT: LATVIA: MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 148157

Classified By: Ambassador Catherine Todd Bailey. Reason: 1.4 (d)

¶1. (C) Pol/Econ Off met on September 11 with Signe Jansone, MFA A/S-level official responsible for the Middle East, to deliver demarche on maintaining momentum in Lebanon. Jansone agreed that it is very important not to return to the pre-conflict status quo in Lebanon. She said that it remains to be seen how active the enhanced UNIFIL force will be in preventing a return to pre-conflict conditions, as there are those in the EU who see the UNIFIL mandate as still somewhat vague. Jansone said that Lebanon and the Middle East will be topics of discussion in the EU-US lunch at the UNGA, and also at the next EU GAERC meeting. She added that Latvia has requested bilateral meetings with both the Israeli and Lebanese representatives at the UNGA, and has tentative green lights for those meetings.

¶2. (C) On Latvia's role in Lebanon, Jansone noted that while Latvia had decided not to participate in UNIFIL, the GOL intends to participate in the long-term reconstruction efforts there. Aiding this, she stated, Lebanon has proposed opening an Honorary Consul office in Riga, and the MFA has accepted the proposal. She mentioned that the Latvian Ministry of Culture was formulating plans to provide cultural heritage preservation aid to the Lebanese government, similar to aid it had previously provided in Iraq. Regarding the equipment needs identified by the Lebanese government, Jansone said that the Latvian Interior Ministry has taken those requests under review.
Antweiler